

Barb Krech

From: Vickie Alsides
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 11:13 AM
To: Barb Krech
Subject: FW: Xcel Nuclear Plant Expansion

FYI: This was in the Commissioner's e-mail box.

Thank you.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mary_Waters@cargill.com [mailto:Mary_Waters@cargill.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 9:14 AM
To: Commerce.Commissioner@state.mn.us; Energy.Info@state.mn.us
Subject: Xcel Nuclear Plant Expansion

In today's StarTribune I saw an article indicating there is a request from Xcel to expand the Monticello plant. I will not be able to attend the public hearing so wanted to send you my comments and concerns. If you are not the correct contacts, please let me know or forward this on to the appropriate parties.

There are some concerns I have with nuclear power. As long as everything is contained, it is considered to be a very clean source of energy. The operative word is "contained" we have seen cases where a malfunction at the site can create a major disaster as with Chernobyl. While there are several safety measures they can never be 100% and by extending the plants beyond their originally intended use or expanding capacity, feel we increase the risk of issues. The other issue is what to do with the waste. This has been an ongoing debate of where to store it. The waste is so hazardous that it must be sealed in massive vaults somewhere and ensure it does not leak out into the environment. There must be better ways to meet our energy needs. Feel it would be better to focus our funds on wind, solar, and hydro power sources. Yes, costs may rise due to lower supply and need to build infrastructure for the new sources, but in the long run we will be better off.

The other concern I have is more around the global political impact. We tell other nations that they can not invest in nuclear technologies because they might use the technology to create bombs. While that may be a real concern it seems very arrogant to say we can use this form of energy and others can not. For the good of the global environment I think it would be better if no-one had nuclear power plants.

Thank you.
Mary

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